New Orleans 'Plot' Probe Linked To Dallas Airports

Post 3/27/67

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — The Dallas Times Herald said Sunday that an investigator from the New Orleans district attorney's office was in Dallas last month to find out whether pilot David Ferrie was in Dallas when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated.

Ferrie, found dead in his New Orleans apartment Wednesday, was identified by New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison as a "key man" in his probe of the assassination.

Ferrie reportedly had said that Garrison believed he was to be the getaway pilot in an alleged conspiracy hatched in New Orleans that took Kennedy's life in Dallas on Nov. 22, 1963.

The Warren Commission said it found no credible evidence of conspiracy and that the assassination was the work of one man, Lee Harvey Oswald.

Fred Lenz, a mechanic at White Rock Airport in Dallas, said he told Garrison's investigator that he recalled having seen Ferrie in Dallas but added that he "couldn't be sure of the date."

Another mechanic at the same airport, Bobby Pike, said, "I thought at the time I was shown a picture of Ferrie (by the investigator) that I had seen the man. I couldn't remember when or where, but it has been some time ago."

Nelson Knight, a student pilot, told the Times Herald he accompanied the New Orleans investigator to several Dallas airports because the visitor did not know his way around.

Knight said the investigator carefully explained to each person he interviewed that he had three pictures of a man, and that he was "trying to establish if the man was in Dallas on a certain date."

Knight said the dates mentioned were Nov. 20 to 30, 1963.

Knight said he stayed with the New Orleans man as a guide. He said the man interviewed about 30 persons at airports and was "very thorough," and took various pictures of the different fields.